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SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" அசிஸ்டெண்ட்க் பப்ளி பிராசிகியூடரை சர்வீஸ் கமிஷன் மூலம் தெரிந்தெடுக்க சர்க்கார் யோசனை செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, these appointments are only for a term. We are now finalising the rules regarding regular appointments to this cadre."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMANY :—" Is it not a fact Sir, that Sri Subba Ayyar has been appointed over the heads of two other Assistant State Prosecutors who were already working there? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, a separate question may be put on this subject and I will be able to explain every detail regarding this appointment."

Medical concessions to non-gazetted officers.

* 187 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the total number of non-gazetted officers to whom free medical treatment has been given up to 30th June 1953 in South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" About 350 for the period from 1st January 1953 to 30th June 1953. The figure excludes the non-gazetted officers treated in the out-patient department."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" 1953-ம்வருட ஜூன்மீ 11உயுள்ள சுகாதார இலாகா ஜி.ஓ. நெ. 2233 பிறப்பதற்கு முன்பு என். ஜீ. ஓ-க்களால் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட பில் ஜி.ஓ. நெ 2233-படி இல்லை என்ற காரணத்தால் பணம் பட்டுவாடா செய்யாமல் மறுக்கப்பட்டுவிட்டன. இவைகளின் காரணம் என்ன ? இது சரிதானா ? இதைப்பற்றி சுகாதார மந்திரி விளக்குவாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, these concessions have been given with effect from 1st April 1952."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, in G.O. No. 2233, P.H., dated 11th June 1953, it has been stated that non-gazetted officers should produce bills based on prescriptions from specified District Medical Officers or Medical Practitioners. But, the bills already submitted by them from other Registered Medical Practitioners were not passed on the ground that they did not conform to G.O. No. 2233, P.H., dated 11th June 1953. Will the Government consider the question of passing these bills? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member may please write to me on this matter."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கீழ்த்தர உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் தங்கள் வைத்திய வசதிக்காக செலவிட்ட தொகையை சர்க்காரிடமிருந்து திரும்பிப் பெறுவதற்கு பெரிய சிரமமாயிருக்கிறபடியினால் உயர்தரமருந்துகளை ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் வைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் தகுந்த எற்பாடு செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the authorized medical attendants are asked to prescribe the commonly used drugs of equal therapeutic value when new costly drugs are not available in hospitals and dispensaries. They are prohibited from prescribing expensive drugs, tonics, laxatives or other elegant preparations which are not considered necessary."

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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir. is it a fact that the Government have prohibited the grant of these concessions to retired but re-employed persons and that, if they had already enjoyed this concession, recoveries have been ordered? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir. I do not think it is correct."

Department of Publicity and Information.

* 188 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Government are maintaining a department of Publicity and Information;

(*b*) whether the department is a permanent one; and

(*c*) the expenditure incurred by the Government for maintaining it?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The Information and Publicity Department is being maintained, (*a*) to act as a liaison between the Government and the Press, (*b*) to inform the public on the policies and programmes of Government; and (*c*) to assess trends of public opinion as expressed in the newspapers and bring them to the notice of the Government.

" (*b*) Yes. All the posts in the department which were in existence for over five years and the continuance of which was considered necessary have been made permanent. Some of the posts were retrenched on grounds of economy. The number of posts thus retrenched is 23 out of 48 posts.

" (*c*) The annual expenditure on account of this department is now Rs. 1·3 lakhs. Prior to retrenchment the expenditure was Rs. 2·15 lakhs."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" டைரக்டர் ஸ்தானம் காலி ஏற்பட்ட காலத்திலே அதே இலாகாவில் இருக்கும் ஒருவருக்கு உயர்வை அளிக்காமல், வேறு ஒரு புதிய நபரை ஏன் நியமிக்கவேண்டும்? அப்படிப்பட்ட டைரக்டர் ஸ்தானத்திற்கு வேண்டிய யோக்கியதாம்சங்கள் என்ன? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No particular qualifications have been prescribed by any rules for this post and only the general suitability of the person is considered. The present Director of the department was acting on a contract basis and when the contract period was over he has been appointed as the permanent Director of this department."

SRI T. GANAPATHY :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government will make available in Tamil the Information Films of the Government of India for exhibition in rural areas? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I will consider that suggestion."